

HONORING A FIGHTING FOURTH
MARINE**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to recognize a life member of the Fourth Marine Division and the Marine Corps League, Milton Saxon, a resident of Longview, Texas, in the Fourth Congressional District. Milton was a member of K Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Regiment, Fourth Marine Division from March 1944–May 1946 and fought on Iwo Jima.

Milton has put into writing many of his thoughts and memories about his service in World War II, and I am pleased to share some of those with my colleagues today. Milton recalls joining the Marines in March of 1944, at the age of 18, and being trained in San Diego before being shipped out to the Marine Transit Center at Oahu. Here he was attached to the Fourth Marine Division on Maui, where he boarded the L.S.T. #684 to begin their trip toward Japan. Private Saxon and the Fourth Division landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Milton was part of the fifth wave of Marines that hit the beach, where “hell was breaking loose.” “Without exception, every friend that was within touching distance of me was either killed or wounded,” he writes.

Milton's vivid descriptions of what happened that day and during the ensuing days reveal the confusion, the terror, the courage and the heroism among those young soldiers and officers. On Iwo Jima they encountered situations that they could never have been adequately trained for—yet situations where time and again they rose to the challenge and prevailed in the line of fire. By nightfall of that first day, K Company was down to 150 men. “It is impossible to describe the exact emotions, smells and sounds of this battle,” Milton said. “I don't have nightmares any more, but my memory will never die. I will always honor those less fortunate than I was.”

Milton describes the ensuing battle over the next 27 days that led to victory at Iwo Jima. Private First Class Milton Saxon was a survivor. The friends he made in the Marines who also survived have remained life-long friends. “There are not many advantages of war, but one advantage is finding someone that is closer than most brothers can ever be,” he writes.

Milton now belongs to a Marine Corps Detachment composed of Marines from Desert Storm, Korea, Vietnam and World War II—and even some who are presently serving in the Marines. “Nothing has been lost between the generations of service . . . All of the history, the lore and the tradition of the Marine Corps lives on through each member.”

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, I want to thank Milton Saxon for taking the time to record his memories of his war experiences and to tell his story with honesty, conviction—and even some humor where appropriate. His first-person account will be handed down through his family for many generations and will provide a powerful legacy of that most important time in world history—and one of the defining times in American history.

He is retired now, having served his country for 37 years in Texas public education as a school administrator, teacher and coach. Milton Saxon is one of those from “the Greatest Generation”—a selfless young man who heeded the call of duty, risked his life for his country, and forever will be an American hero. As we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of my friend and an outstanding American—Milton Saxon.

IN TRIBUTE TO HOMEGROWN
VALUES**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 27 years of homegrown values and community service by people who grew a local financial institution into a success enterprise and shepherded its continued investment in Ventura County, California.

When American Commercial Bank opened its doors on September 18, 1973, its founders pledged not only to provide top-quality banking services, but also to use the bank's assets and standing to provide community support to Ventura County's citizens.

It was well-suited to follow through on that promise. Its first chairman, Emilio Lagomarsino, was born in Ventura County around the turn of the century. Emilio Lagomarsino was successful in a variety of pursuits, including farming, wholesale beverage distribution and oil.

Edward T. Martin followed Mr. Lagomarsino to the chairman's chair. He was active in Ojai civic, church and community affairs and founder of a successful outdoor advertising company. His son Tom currently serves on the board.

Allen W. Jue, who succeeded Martin as chairman, also is a native of Ventura County. His father, Walton Jue, opened National Market across from the San Buenaventura Mission in 1928.

Earlier this year, Mr. Jue turned the chairmanship over to Emilio's son, Robert J. Lagomarsino, who many in this chamber remember as a valued colleague. Community service is in his blood. He served in the U.S. Navy, was an Ojai city councilman and mayor, a California state senator, and a congressman from 1974 to 1993.

Chief Executive Officer Gerald J. Lukiewski is not a native California, but he has sunk his roots deep here. He graduated from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks and married a California girl, Nancy. He has been lured by major financial corporations, but prefers community banking so he can spend as much time as possible with Nancy and their eight children.

The sense of family and community to which these men aspire is reflected in the bank's community record. The bank has been actively involved in and contributed to: Community Memorial Hospital; Ventura Chamber Music Festival; Ventura Rotary International; Oxnard Downtowners; Ventura County Museum of History & Art; Casa Latina; Ventura

Country Community Foundation; Multiple Sclerosis; United Cerebral Palsy; Working To Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect; Ventura County Fair; National Park Trust; the Oxnard, Ventura and Camarillo Boyes & Girls Clubs; and the Chamber of Commerce of Ventura, Oxnard and Camarillo. Educational support has also been provided to Oxnard College, Saint Thomas Aquinas College and to the CSU-Northridge Channel Island University Advisory Board.

Only a successful enterprise could provide such strong community support. The bank has completed its most successful year with record growth in capital, loans, deposits and net profit and has paid 67 consecutive quarterly cash dividends to its shareholders. The bank operates six Ventura County offices and, as of June 30, 2000, assets exceeded one-quarter billion dollars.

American Commercial Bank has received numerous national and community recognitions for its accomplishments. The American Bankers Association awarded a community service award to the bank and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation categorized the bank as “well-capitalized,” its highest rating of capital adequacy. The prestigious Bauer Financial Group has awarded its highest star rating of “Superior” and “five stars” to the bank for its outstanding financial performance.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing the people who led American Commercial Bank through 27 years of accomplishment and service and wish them and the community they serve continued success.

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF A
COMMUNITY APPROACH TO ELDERLY CARE**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese American Retirement Enterprises (CAREN). This Saturday, more than a thousand CAREN members will celebrate this milestone occasion with its founders and friends at the CAREN Co-op House in Adelphi, Maryland, near the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

It is hard to believe that it was just a decade ago that a group of concerned and committed citizens from the Washington, DC area founded CAREN to aid senior and disabled Chinese Americans by providing programs and opportunities for affordable housing and elder care. CAREN is dedicated to five service goals: (1) housing and transportation, (2) learning and recreational activities, (3) assisted living and bilingual care, (4) security and a sense of belonging, and (5) happiness through voluntary contribution and labor. Additionally, CAREN promotes lifelong learning and the preservation of Chinese culture to be passed on to future generations.

As a strong supporter of CAREN's mission, I am very pleased to have been involved with the organization since its inception. Since its